Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of February 24, 2003 to February 28, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	January			The Canadian CPI was up by 4.5% from January 2002. Higher energy prices (+15.3%) were a major factor in this yearly rise. Increases were also seen in the prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+17.6%) and transportation (+11.8%). For Alberta, the annual increase in the CPI was 7.1% (down from 8.3% in December). On a monthly basis, the Alberta CPI was up only 0.2% from December, compared to a 0.8% increase for Canada.
Alberta	128.6	0.2%	7.1%	
Canada	121.4	0.8%	4.5%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	January			Manufacturers' prices increased by 0.3% in January. Prices were 2.0% above their level of January 2002. A key factor in the monthly increase was higher prices for petroleum and coal products (+7.5%), while increases in chemical products (+1.2%) and primary metal products (+0.9%) also contributed. These increases were partly offset by price declines for motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-1.1%) and pulp and paper products (-1.0%).
	108.4	0.3%	2.0%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	January			In January, prices of raw materials rose by 22.2% from the same period last year. Increases in mineral fuels prices (+46.7%) were mainly responsible for this annual increase. On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were 5.2% above their level of December. The monthly increase was also attributable mainly to increases in mineral fuels (+9.8%), as well as to rises in prices for animal products (+3.6%).
	125.6	5.2%	22.2%	
Canadian GDP	December			Canada's Gross Domestic Product edged up by 0.1% in December. Retailing activity increased by 0.6%, mainly the result of a 1.7% rise in new motor vehicle sales. Industrial output also increased by 0.1%, as gains in mining (+1.8%) were only partially offset by lower manufacturing (-0.3%) and utilities (-0.1%) output.
(millions of 1997 dollars)	988,345	0.1%	3.7%	